President’s Monday Briefing – Nov. 22, 2010

Campuses Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
The College of Marin Kentfield and Indian Valley Campuses will be closed Thursday through Saturday, Nov. 25 through 27, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. The campus will reopen on Monday, Nov. 29. Have a safe and happy holiday!

Donations Requested for COM’s Night of Giving
Associated Students College of Marin (ASCOM) is requesting donations for College of Marin's Annual Night of Giving on Dec. 3, 2010. All types of donations are welcome including: toys, children's books, non-perishable food, gift cards, and gift baskets. This will be a free, fun-filled evening with dinner, gifts, and lots of children's activities. ASCOM hosts this event for our College of Marin low-income students, single parent families, and students in need. Donations support our student leaders' work at the college and may be tax deductible. Thank you for helping our students and the community.

In need of a Christmas gift?
ASCOM is having a drawing valued at $175 for a cheese and wine tasting from A.G. Ferrari Foods. The wine and cheese tasting is for up to 10 people and the funds raised will be used toward the expense of ASCOM’s annual Night of Giving Program for our students and families in need of a positive Christmas with an evening of food for all families in attendance and games and gifts for the children. Tickets for this drawing are $5 each, with the drawing to be held at ASCOM’s meeting on Dec. 9. Buy your tickets in the Student Services Building, Room 250. For more information contact Vickie Lamke at (415) 485-9376.

RN Students and Area Dentists Screen Local Children
There were 230 children screened at College of Marin from the Head Start Program this past Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Children were from the Novato, San Rafael, and Marin City Head Start Centers. The children were between 3 and 4 years old. Dental Screening was done by seven volunteer dentists from the community: Dr. Eric Haney, Dr. Emad Elgelvdy, Dr. Eliza Hyatt, Dr. Alan Cascio, Dr. Jim Miller, Dr. Kathleen Bales, and Dr. Mark Hansen.

Students from the RN Program did screening for age-appropriate motor skills, vital signs, height, and weight; and Dental Assisting Program students assisted with the dental screening for each child.

Thank you to all of our neighbors in Harlan Center for their understanding and patience with the extra noise and added commotion of the mornings. Overall it was a very successful screening process for the children and for our Health Science students.
Kudos

College of Marin Political Science and History Professor Robert Ovetz, Ph.D. was recently hired as the Outreach and Projects Coordinator with the International Society for Ecology and Culture (ISEC) based in Berkeley. ISEC is releasing its new documentary "The Economics of Happiness" in early 2011. Ovetz will be coordinating international media promotions, distribution, and broadcasts. Congratulations, Robert!

Kudos go to Vickie Lamke; ASCOM board members Gerardo Orantes, Lance Reyes, Raemond Bergstrom-Wood, and Elaina Perez; ESCOM members; and the Maintenance Department staff for all their assistance in putting together a great Harvest Day Appreciation Luncheon at the Indian Valley Campus on Thursday, Nov. 18. Thank you to all the students, staff, and faculty who contributed 3 barrels of non-perishable goods weighing a total of 337 pounds and $235 cash given to the Marin Food Bank. A special thank you to Arnie’s Kids, students from the special education program through the Marin County Office of Education, who contributed $100 in cash toward this effort!

We are Thankful for This Year’s Additions to the COMmunity

College of Marin’s families got a little bit bigger this year with the birth of four babies! Math and Sciences Administrative Assistant Carson Riutta gave birth on June 10 to an 8 lb. 9 oz. boy named Eamon Bruce Riutta. And we have three proud fathers: Athletics and PE Director Matt Markovich now has a second daughter, Rubie Michelle Markovich, who was born on Oct. 15, weighing 6lbs. 6oz. and measuring 18.5 inches; Database Administrator Aaron Osheroff’s baby boy Noah Joseph Osheroff, born Nov.14, weighing 4 lbs. 4 oz. and measuring 18 inches; and Modern Languages Instructor Michele Martinisi’s baby girl (no name just yet) was born on Nov. 18, weighing 7lbs. 10 ounces.

Section 125 Benefit Plan – Open Enrollment

The college’s Pre-Tax Section 125 program year ends on Dec. 31, 2010. You will be receiving the open enrollment memo for the Section 125 Benefit plan in your campus mail box shortly. Employees who wish to enroll or make changes in their current plan(s) will need to do so by Dec. 14, 2010. Participation in the pre-tax plans is voluntary and the enrollment period is limited to once annually.

Section 125 of the IRS Code provides options to use pre-tax dollars to pay for certain health and welfare benefits. The employee share of health care premium contributions, dependent/child care expenses and out-of-pocket medical/dental expenses, including office visit and prescription co-pays, are all eligible for payment with pre-tax dollars and provide a reduction in tax withholding and reportable wages. Enrolling in the Flexible Spending Account program allows you to set aside funds for un-reimbursed medical/dental expenses, childcare or dependent care expenses, and supplemental insurance premiums and have those funds deducted from your paycheck before your taxes are calculated. Pre-taxing these expenses may save in taxes on the money you are currently spending.
IMPORTANT: We anticipate increases in monthly premiums for both Kaiser and Health Net this year as well as increases in office visit and prescription co-pays for some employees effective Feb. 1, 2011. Depending on your individual situation, you may wish to consider looking into tax saving options under this program. There are also changes due to Health Care Reform related to over the counter medicine and drug reimbursements. These items may not be reimbursable unless prescribed by a physician. Please contact our AFLAC representative, Donna Reeve, if you have questions about what is covered and reimbursable.

Donna Reeve will be on campus for individual appointments Nov. 29 through Dec. 3. You may make an appointment by calling Kathy Joyner at ext. 8101 or via e-mail at kathy.joyner@marin.edu. You may also contact Ms. Reeve directly at (415) 250-0540 or at donnareeve@comcast.net. Enrollment forms are available in the Human Resources and Payroll offices. Please note that the Health Benefit Open Enrollment period will occur December through January. More information regarding health plan open enrollment will be forthcoming.

January Flex Workshops—Call For Proposals
The Professional Development Committee is calling for proposals for January Flex workshops. In particular, the committee is interested in building the Flex program around the topics identified as top priorities by faculty and staff in last spring’s Professional Development Needs Assessment: strategies for student success, SLOs, assessment, CPR, health and wellness and online learning courseware development including Moodle. If you are willing to present a workshop on one of these topics or another topic of interest or suggest a trainer, please e-mail Kathleen Kirkpatrick at Kathleen.kirkpatrick@marin.edu. The committee is currently reviewing proposals but will accept submissions through Dec. 7, 2010.

Seasonal Flu Vaccines—Now Only $15
Influenza (“flu”) is a contagious disease which can be spread by coughing, sneezing, and nasal secretions. For most people the flu lasts only a few days and includes symptoms such as fever, chills, cough, sore throat, headache, muscle aches, and fatigue. By getting vaccinated, you can protect yourself from influenza and may also avoid spreading influenza to others. The Health Center will continue to offer flu shots as long as the supply lasts for $15. Please call (415) 485-9458 for an appointment.
Upcoming Events
Performing Arts

**Symphonic Band**  
**Douglas Delaney**, director  
Wednesday, Dec. 1, at 7:30 p.m.  
Fine Arts Theatre  
Donation suggested, parking $3

The Community Symphonic Band performs challenging music, which is always well received by our audiences. On this program the band will perform Don Gillis’ *Symphony 5 ½*, the *William Byrd Suite* by Gordon Jacob, and Bernstein’s *Overture to Candide*.

**Two Evenings of Chamber Music**  
**Jessica Ivry**, director  
Friday and Saturday, Dec. 3 and 4, at 7:30 p.m.  
Lefort Recital Hall (FA 72)  
Suggested donation $7, free parking

College of Marin music students perform in a variety of small ensembles, including trios, quartets and quintets. There will be a different program each evening. Call (415) 485-9460 for program details.

**Almost Maine**  
By John Cariani  
**Molly Noble**, director  
Thursday, Dec. 2, is a pay-what you will preview at 8 p.m.  
Friday and Saturday, Dec. 3, 4, 10, and 11, at 8 p.m.  
Matinees on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 4, 5, 11, and 12, at 2 p.m.  
Studio Theatre (FA 32)  
$20 general, $10 for students, seniors, COM employees, and alumni

Set in the mythical town of Almost, Maine, this play is a quirky, romantic mid-winter dream—a roundelay of vignettes, all set at precisely 9 p.m. on the same night in the depths of winter. Guaranteed to eradicate the blues, this show will leave you with a warm fuzzy feeling, make you laugh, and make you cry as it explores the mysteries of the human heart.

**Cabaret Songs of William Bolcom**  
Advanced Voice Class  
**Linda Noble Brown**, instructor  
Sunday, Dec. 5, at 3 p.m.  
The Tamalpais Retirement Community  
501 Via Casitas, Greenbrae
**Jazz Ensemble**  
*Douglas Delaney*, director  
*David Jones*, choreographer  
Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 7:30 p.m.  
Fine Arts Theatre  
Donation suggested, parking $3

This fall’s concert will again add vocal soloists and jazz dancers to the jazz band. Choreographer and COM Dance Instructor David Jones and his students will bring excitement with his interpretations of Jazz and Latin classics. Student vocal soloists from the COM Music Department will be featured on such classic jazz tunes as *Chega de Saudade, Fever,* and *Lush Life.*

**Concert Band**  
*Douglas Delaney*, director  
Wednesday, Dec. 8, at noon  
Fine Arts Theatre  
Donation suggested, parking $3

The Concert Band will perform selections from *Aladdin,* Prokofiev’s *Train Ride,* and a suite from the opera *Carmen* for a noontime audience. Come join us during the lunch hour to hear a selection of musical favorites.

**Marin Oratorio**  
*The Seasons* by Franz Joseph Haydn  
*Boyd Jarrell*, director  
Saturday, Dec. 11, at 8 p.m.  
Sunday, Dec. 12, at 3 p.m.  
Fine Arts Theatre  
Donation: $20 general, $15 students, staff, seniors, and alumni.  
Call the College of Marin Box Office at (415) 485-9385 for tickets.

From the rustic pleasures of the village peasants to the noble brilliance of the heavenly chorus, *The Seasons* represents the culmination of Haydn’s long and illustrious career. In Haydn’s last great work, the human condition and the passage of time are told through the story of a farmer, his daughter, and her suitor. The old composer’s thoughts on mortality, grandeur, and power shine through in some of his most varied and fascinating writing. The 110 voice MARIN ORATORIO chorus and full orchestra will be joined by guest vocal soloists Christa Pfeiffer, Jonathan Smucker, and Jeffrey Fields.
The Sound of Courage
Beginning Voice Class
Linda Noble Brown, instructor
Monday, Dec. 14, at 2:10 p.m.
Lefort Recital Hall (FA 72)
FREE admission, parking $3

College Chorus and Chamber Singers
Post Season
Boyd Jarrell, director
Jeffrey Paul, accompanist
Tuesday, Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m.
Lefort Recital Hall (FA 72)
Donation suggested, parking $3

Following Haydn’s lead, College Chorus and Chamber Singers will take another look at the seasons through music. Winter, spring, summer, and fall all get their due in this delightful choral survey. Beginning with To Everything there is a Season by Ed Harris, the forty voice College Chorus will present a variety of musical images. Chamber Singers will follow with a cappella “orchestrations” of Bach’s Air on a G String, and Tchaikovsky’s Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, as well as the hauntingly beautiful Twelfth Night by Samuel Barber. Come and celebrate!

Parking Information
Due to construction at College of Marin parking availability is reduced. Performances may be accessed by using Parking Lot 16 after 5pm (at the corner of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Laurel Avenue) and Parking Lot 2 (across Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, accessed via traffic signaled crosswalk.) Additional parking across campus can be accessed via College Avenue. On weekdays and Monday through Thursday evenings, please park in student parking only. There is very limited disabled parking behind the Fine Arts Building in the remaining vestiges of Parking Lot 4. Daily parking passes may be purchased from the machines in Parking Lot 2 for $3. Parking for events on Friday evenings, Saturdays, and Sundays is free.
Ongoing Events

COM Athletics

Men’s Basketball Butte Classic Tournament
   Nov. 26 and 27 in Butte

Women’s Basketball vs. Shasta College
   Saturday, Nov. 27, 4 p.m. in Kentfield

Results

Women’s Basketball
   Nov 17: Skyline College 51, COM 48

Women’s Volleyball
   Nov. 16: Laney def. COM 25-17, 26-28, 25-17, 25-20

Happy Thanksgiving,

A.J. Harrison II
Superintendent/President